

COPY Bond Pelease #3493



EarthFax Engineering, Inc.

Engineers/Scientists

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February 11, 2010

Daron Haddock Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Coal Program 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Subject:

Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, ACT/007/0006 Change in Post-mining Land Use, Permit Area Reduction,

and Phase III Bond Release

Dear Mr. Haddock:

On behalf of Dennis Ware of Plateau Mining Corporation, I am pleased to submit three review copies and one CD with electronic versions of documentation to support the following changes to the Star Point Mine permit:

- Change in post-mining land use from wildlife to industrial for a portion of the current permit
- Reduction in the size of the approved permit area, and
- Request for Phase II bond release for the aforementioned area.

The documentation that we are submitting includes the required C1 and C2 forms, redline/strikeout changes to affected text, modified drawings, and additions to exhibits. Plateau is seeking these changes to allow the sale of a 40-acre parcel of land to and development of that land by ConocoPhillips Company for oil and gas production. This area has already been granted Phase II bond release by the Division.

I have also attached a proposed Public Notice to be published once the submitted documentation has been deemed by your staff to be administratively complete. This public Notice will be published at the appropriate time in the Sun Advocate at weekly intervals for four consecutive weeks.

Please contact me at 801-561-1555 or Dennis Ware at 435-650-2951 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard B. White, P.E.

President

EarthFax Engineering, Inc.

Richard 78White

cc: Dennis Ware (Plateau Mining Corporation) Brandon Treese (ConocoPhillips Company)

Enclosure

File in: ☐ Confidential Expandable

Refer to Record No OOO Pate Oc

In C/007006 2016 For additional information RECEIVED

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



Public Notice

Application for Permit Area Reduction
Post-mining Land Use Change, and
Phase III Bond Release
Star Point Mine
Plateau Mining Corporation
Permit ACT/007/0006, Approved 28 Jan 1992

Notice is hereby given that Plateau Mining Corporation, P.O. Box 30, Helper, Utah 84526, a subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., has filed an application with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for a reduction in the Permit Area, a change in post-mining land use from wildlife to industrial, and Phase III bond release for a 40-acre parcel associated with Permit ACT/007/0006. The reduction in the permit area applies to land comprising the SE/4 SE/4 Sec. 9, T. 15 S., R. 8 E. The post-mining land use of this parcel will change from a currently approved wildlife use to an industrial use. The Phase III bond release applies to 8.0 acres of previously disturbed but subsequently reclaimed land within the aforementioned parcel. The purpose of this change is to allow sale of the parcel for oil and gas development on fee surface within the Drunkards Wash Unit under the provisions of the Utah Coal Mining and Reclamation Act pursuant to R645-301-413.300 of the Utah Coal Program Regulations.

The affected lands are located in Carbon County and can be found on the Wattis U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle. Copies of the complete permit application are available for public inspection at the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performance Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Written comments, objections, and requests for public hearing or informal conferences regarding this proposal may be address to:

Utah Coal Regulatory Program
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

The closing date for submission of such comments, objections, and requests for public hearing or informal conferences on the proposal must be received in writing by (Date).

APPLICATION FOR COAL PERMIT PROCESSING



	Plateau Mining Corporation			ACT/007/0006			
ine:	Star Point Mine	Permit	Number: [AC1/00//0000			
de:	Post-mining land use change and bond release request Include reason for application and timing required to implement:						
	t-mining land use in SE/4 SE/4 Sec. 9, T. 15 S., R. 8 E. and reque						
Yes No	2. Is the application submitted as a result of a Division O 3. Does the application include operations outside a previous 4. Does the application include operations in hydrologic 5. Does the application result from cancellation, reduction 6. Does the application require or include public notice position 7. Does the application require or include ownership, con 8. Is proposed activity within 100 feet of a public road or	Disturbed Area order? DO# ously identified Cumu basins other than as our or increase of insuranablication?	lative Hydrol rently approvice or reclams	increase decrease. ogic Impact Area? red? ation bond?			
Yes X No	10. Is the application submitted as a result of other laws or			a income and a second			
Yes 🗆 No	Explain: 11. Does the application affect the surface landowner or el						
Yes ⊠ No Yes ⊠ No Yes ⊠ No ease attach	13. Does the application require or include collection and 14. Could the application have any effect on wildlife or ve 15. Does the application require or include soil removal, st 16. Does the application require or include vegetation mor 17. Does the application require or include construction, n 18. Does the application require or include water monitori 19. Does the application require or include certified design 20. Does the application require or include subsidence con 21. Have reclamation costs for bonding been provided? 22. Does the application involve a perennial stream, a stream 23. Does the application affect permits issued by other ages 23.	reporting of any baseling etation outside the curorage or placement? sitoring, removal or revious fication, or removal ag, sediment or drainages, maps or calculation; trol or monitoring? The buffer zone or dischanges or permits issued and is it clearly marked	ne information rent disturbe regetation act I of surface fige control me? harges to a straight to other entit I and separate	n? d area? ivities? acilities? asures? eam? ties?			
i benet mall n coms N. W	nat I am a responsible official of the applicant and that the information contain espects with the laws of Utah in reference to commitments, undertakings, and are Controller & Admin. Mgr. 02-10-10	ned in this application is true obligations, herein.	and correct to the	te best of my information			
hint Name	Position Date S	gnature (Right-click above o	choose certify th	en save notary sign below.			
to cibed and s stary Public: J y commission Nun idrose: 25	10. Maik		RUANNA Comen	ry Putsic E LEFFLANG Basin #379452 mission Expires B 2015 of Utan			
r Office Use	Only:	Assigned Tracking Number:	REC	oy Oil, Gas & Mining DEIVED			

APPLICATION FOR COAL PERMIT PROCESSING Detailed Schedule Of Changes to the Mining And Reclamation Plan

Permittee	: Plateau M	ining Corporat	ion		1 CT 100 T 1000 C
Mine: Star Point Mine		mit Number:	ACT/007/0006		
Title: Post-mining land use change and bond release request					
application. of contents,	Individually section of th	list all maps a e plan, or othe	s to the Mining and Reclamation Plan, which is required and drawings that are added, replaced, or removed from r information as needed to specifically locate, identify a on and drawing number as part of the description.	the plan. Includ	e changes to the table
			DESCRIPTION OF MAP, TEXT, OR MATEI	RIAL TO BE C	HANGED
	X Replace	_	Section 100, page 100-3		
	X Replace	_	Section 100, Map 112.500a		
	Replace		Section 400, page 400-2		
_	Replace	Remove	Section 400, page 400-6	0.0	
	Replace	Remove	Memorandum of Option to Section 400, Exhibit 412.2	00a	
	X Replace	Remove	Section 500, Map 542.200a		
	Replace	Remove	Section 500, Map 542.200c		
	Replace	Remove	Section 700, Map 761a		
	Replace	Remove	Section 700, Map 761c		
	Replace	Remove	Section 800, Table of Contents		
	X Replace	Remove	Section 800, pages 800-1 and 800-2		
X Add	Replace	Remove	Section 800, Exhibit 880.100b	صالالال	
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Any other s Mining and	specific or sp Reclamatio	ecial instruct n Plan.	ion required for insertion of this proposal into the	I A	ECEIVED FEB 1 1 2010 FOIL, GAS & MINING

112.500. SURFACE AND MINERAL OWNERSHIP.

Legal or equitable owners of record of areas to be affected by surface operations and facilities are as follows:

Surface Ownership

Plateau Mining Corporation 999 Corporate Blvd. Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

United States Government Bureau of Land Management Price, UT 84501

John J. & LaRue Petitti 822 W. 1800 S. Price, UT 84501 United States Government Manti-La Sal Forest Price, UT 84501

State of Utah Division of State Lands 105 State Capitol Building Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Sunnyside Cogeneration Associates One Power Plant Road, P.O. Box 159 Sunnyside, Utah 84539

The road used to access the mine and many of the surface facilities associated with the mine is County Road No. 290. Carbon County 290 will remain in place after postmining reclamation to provide access to land above the mine area, as required by the postmining land use plan.

On January 31, 2002, Sunnyside Cogeneration Associates (SCA) acquired certain assests, including the fee property, rights-of-way, persoanal property, and waste coal refuse pile (ExhibitMap 112.500a). On December 14, 2009 ConocoPhillips Company (COP) entered into an option to purchase 40 acres of land from PMC (see Exhibit 412.200a). Upon Phase III bond release of this area and exercise of the option, COP will become the owner of the surface land indicated on Map 112.500a and this land will be removed from the PMC mining permit area. Refer to ExhibitMap 112.500a for surface ownership associated with the soil borrow area and the COP option.

Coal Ownership

Plateau Mining Corporation 999 Corporate Blvd. Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

United States Government

State of Utah

The major lessee of the surface areas to be affected by surface operations or facilities is Plateau Mining Corporation ("PMC") as shown on Map 112.500a, Surface Ownership. The only holder of any leasehold interest in the coal to be mined is Plateau Mining Corporation. Coal in two parcels within the present permit area is controlled by other owners as shown on Map 112.500b, Coal Ownership and Cultural Resource Survey Areas. No mineable coal exists in either parcel.

Map 112.500a Map 112.500b

There are no known purchasers of record under real estate contracts of surface or coal interests for property to be mined or the surface areas to be affected.

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and coal mining fits appropriately into the overall land use scheme. Land productivity data were obtained from USFS and BLM.

Besides coal, oil and gas are the known minerals of value in the environs of the permit area. A few wells drilled in a field adjacent to the permit area produced gas and oil from 1924 to 1976. On December 28, 1990, the BLM approved the Drunkards Wash Unit (Unit) for the production of gas, including but not limited to coalbed methane. Since then, and as expanded, the Unit encompasses approximately 94,000 acres within Carbon and Emery Counties. There is a producing well within the pemit area and several adjacent to the permit area.

411.130. Existing Land Uses and Land-Use Classifications.

Recreational use of the general region of the permit area consists of hunting, camping, picnicking, mountain biking, horseback riding, ATV riding, and hiking. Snowmobiling also occurs where the slopes are not too steep.

The PMC property and adjacent area are currently used for grazing, recreation, forestry, oil and gas, and coal mining. The majority of the surface under which PMC has federal leases is managed by the USFS under the multiple use and sustained yield concepts. Lands under state leases are used for grazing and access to the underground mining operations, including personnel and material supply and coal haulage from the underground mine to the preparation facilities. Coal preparation and management facilities are located on fee land.

ConocoPhillips Petroleum Company (Phillips COP), formerly River Gas Corporation, intends to develop their oil and gas leases and other mineral estates in the area adjacent to the mine facilities and contemplates using the pre-exiting roads in the area. Phillips COP is a working interest owner in and unit operator of the Drunkards Wash Unit. Also Carbon County's communication and relay facilities exist atop Star Point Ridge, adjacent to the mine facilities.

Utah Railway Company owns the siding track, right-of-way and access road at the Wattis Junction at Plateau's Loadout. Therefore, Utah Railway Company expects the track and access road to be returned in good condition following the removal of the silo, conveyors and any other structures (see Exhibit 412.200a).

USFS lands on Gentry Mountain Meadow and Castle Valley Ridge are grazed by cattle. Gentry Mountain Meadow is grazed by 1,440 head of cattle, and the Castle Valley Ridge is grazed by 236 head of cattle between July 26 and September 30. Private land owned by U. S. Fuel Company is grazed by 200 to 300 head of cattle between May and November. The land managed by the BLM within the permit boundary is grazed. There are four livestock allotments, three for cattle and one for sheep. Total grazing allowed is 650 animal units per month.

Recreational use of the area affected by mining operations consists primarily of hunting and camping. However, growing use of the area by mountain bikers, ATV riders and hikers has been seen over the past few years. Heavy hunting of elk and mule deer occurs on Gentry Mountain. Gentry Mountain is frequently used for camping. There is no merchantable timber although much of the area is covered by Douglas fir, aspen, pinyon pine, and juniper. Timbering in the area will be dictated by the surface land owner(s) and no plans/contracts are known to exist for harvesting the timber in the area. During the life of the mine the land use should remain the same: recreation; grazing; wildlife; and mining. During the last five years, land use within and adjacent to the permit boundary has changed substantially.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest has established the Castle Valley Ridge Trail System which includes a trail in the area of PMC mining as shown on Map 521.121g1, Subsidence Monitoring Plan. This trail crosses the

411.220. COAL SEAMS OR OTHER MINERAL STRATA MINED.

PMC is located in Wattis, Utah, with the mine portals at approximately 8500 feet above sea level. The coal-bearing strata are in the lower 400 feet of the Blackhawk Formation of the Mesa Verde Group. Coal has been extracted from three seams, which, from uppermost to lowermost, are the Wattis, Third, and Hiawatha Seams. When mining began in the early 1900's, entry was made into the Third Seam and coal was extracted from it first. Mining was expanded into the Wattis Seam. Slopes connected the Wattis Seam with the Third Seam and provided access to the virgin western reserve area.

411.230. thru 411.250. EXTENT OF COAL OR OTHER MINERALS REMOVED.

From 1917 through 1963 approximately 12,000,000 tons of coal were removed from the Star Point Mines by Lion Coal Company. Between 1967 and the fall of 1971 approximately 750,000 tons of coal were extracted by Plateau Mining, Ltd. United Nuclear Corporation as UNC Plateau Mining Company mined approximately 5,000,000 tons of coal between the fall of 1971 and July 21, 1980. PMC has mined approximately 12,000,000 tons between 1980 and 1990.

412. RECLAMATION PLAN.

412.100. POSTMINING LAND USE PLAN.

The postmining land uses will be the same as premining uses except for the areas of industrial postmining land use shown on Maps 542.200a and 542.200c, which will have a higher and better use through further development and processing on oil and gas within the Drunkards Wash Unit. These premining land uses include livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation and forestry in the areas belonging to USFS. Table 412.100a, summarizes the disturbed areas and their postmine land uses. Refer to Exhibit 412.200a for property exchange, easement, right-of-way, maintenance, lease, and use agreements.

412.110. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROPOSED POSTMINING LAND USE.

Forestry as a postmining land use will be achieved by the implementation of the Reclamation Plan as discussed in response to R645-301.300. This Plan provides for replanting tree species compatible with native species where appropriate.

Recreation as a postmining land use will be achieved by implementing the Reclamation Plan. This Plan allows for reclaiming disturbed areas, replanting species compatible with grazing, wildlife and forestry. The land will be utilized for recreation as it was prior to mining activity. Public access to the area will be by County Road No. 290, which will remain after final reclamation as an essential part of the postmining land use.

Oil and Gas development will be located where the preparation plant and mine rescue training field once were. The areas will be graded to facilitate the well pads and utility corridor. A conditional use permit has been obtained from Carbon County to allow for the proposed land use change (Exhibit 412.200a).

Reclamation of the refuse pile is discussed in Section 540 and 550 of this M&RP. The implementation of the reclamation plan should be sufficient to return the refuse to the intended postmining land use.

412.120. thru 412.130. RANGE, GRAZING, AND OIL AND GAS LAND USE.

Postmining land uses are to be achieved by effectively reclaiming disturbed areas including the establishment of a diverse vegetative cover compatible with wildlife and livestock grazing. The alternative postmining industrial land use will be achieved through proper grading of the well sites and utility corridor capable of supporting the higher and better use. PMC, the surface and/or mineral estate owner, has entered into a Lease and Surface Use Agreement with Phillips to allow access to and development of leased substances (Exhibit 412.200a).

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R645-301-800. BONDING AND INSURANCE

- 810. BONDING DEFINITIONS AND DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES.
- 811. TERMS USED.
- 812. thru 812.700. DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES -- BONDING.
- 820. thru 820.133. REQUIREMENT TO FILE A BOND.

The bonded area is shown on Maps 521.121a through 521.121d and Map 5-1 in Exhibit 233. The entire permit area is bonded. The current bond is filed on the form provided by the Division and for an amount equal to or exceeding the bond amount previously determined by the Division under R645-301-830. The current bond form is attached as Exhibit 820.100a, Reclamation Bond. The bond has been updated to include the soil borrow area.

820.200. thru 820.352. FORM OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND.

EPMC will continue to use a surety bond to satisfy R645-301-800.

830. thru 830.130. DETERMINATION OF BOND AMOUNT.

The bond amount is determined by the Division.

830.140. DETAILED COST ESTIMATE.

EPMC has determined a reclamation liability of \$10,581,000 including regrading of the refuse pile to enhance reclamation, the cost of monitoring activities after initial seeding, and appropriate contingencies. See Exhibit 820,100a for further details.

830.200. thru 830.300. MINIMUM BOND AMOUNT.

Presently Initially EPMC has a bonded for \$10,581,000 for reclamation of 173 acres of disturbed land. EPMC proposed to add 24 acres of disturbance for a soil borrow area (refer to Exhibit 233). Appendix 8-1 of Exhibit 233 contains the bond calculations for the soil borrow area. In addition a copy of the bond summary sheet for the borrow area has been included in Exhibit 820.100a. After the Division has had an opportunity to review this permit application and determine the bond amount based on the calculation of the revised reclamation liability a new Reclamation Agreement and bond for the amount determined by the Division will be provided by EPMC. A copy of the current bonding form is presented as Exhibit 820.100a.

The bond amount will be revised as phases of the reclamation plan are deemed by the Division to be complete. Any revised reclamation liability amount reflects the addition of all revisions to the permit application, and assures performance of reclamation, restoration and abatement work associated with CPMC's underground coal mining activities.

830.400. thru 830.500. ADJUSTMENT OF AMOUNT.

EPMC agrees to re-evaluate the performance bond from time to time when the permit acreage is revised, standards of reclamation change, or when the cost of future reclamation work changes.

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EPMC will, from time to time, request reduction of the performance bond amount when circumstances warrant a reduction.

840. thru 840.520. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE BOND.

The bond purchased by EPMC meets the General Terms and Conditions.

850. thru 850.320. BONDING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGROUND.

The bond will remain in full force until the reclamation is completed as outlined in the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan. It is not anticipated that the bond will be fully released less than five years after seeding of the disturbed acreage.

Long-term intensive agricultural postmining land use is not anticipated.

860. FORMS OF BONDS.

860.100. thru 860.120. SURETY BONDS.

The CPMC bond is a surety bond.

860.200. thru 860.260. COLLATERAL BONDS.

EPMC will not use a collateral bond.

860.300. thru 860.380. SELF-BONDING.

EPMC will not self bond.

870. thru 870.200. REPLACEMENT OF BONDS.

If CPMC replaces its current bond the replacing bond will provide equivalent coverage and conditions.

880. thru 880.932. REQUIREMENT TO RELEASE PERFORMANCE BONDS.

CPMC commits to the requirements of R645-301-880. through R645-301-880.932. Phase II bond release was granted to PMC by the Division on June 12, 2008, reducing the remaining bond amount to \$734,000 (see Exhibit 880.100a). PMC requests Phase III bond release on the 40 acres of land in SE/4 SE/4 Sec. 9, T. 15 S., R. 8 E. that will be purchased by ConocoPhillips for use in natural gas production. After Phase III bond release of this area, PMC requests that the reclamation bond associated with the Star Point Mine be reduced to \$672,000.00 (see Exhibit 880.100b).

890. thru 890.400. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LIABILITY.

The certificate of liability insurance is in Exhibit 117.100a (2).

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Memorandum of Option to Purchase Real Estate, Carbon County, Utah

Place in Exhibit 412.200a

MEMORANDUM OF OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE CARBON COUNTY, UTAH

THIS MEMORANDUM OF OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE, CARBON COUNTY, UTAH (the "Memorandum") is made and entered into effective as of the 14th day of December, 2009, by and between PLATEAU MINING CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, with an address of P. O. Box 30, Helper, Utah 84526 (hereinafter referred to as "Optionor"), and CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY, a Delaware corporation, with an address of 3960 E. 56th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022 (hereinafter referred to as "Optionee").

WITNESSETH:

THAT, WHEREAS, Optionor and Optionee entered into that certain Option to Purchase Real Estate, Carbon County, Utah (the "Option") dated concurrently herewith, whereby Optionor granted to Optionee the exclusive right to purchase the surface estate in that certain tract or parcel of land located in Carbon County, Utah, as further described below:

Township 15 South, Range 8 East, SLB&M Section 9: SE/4 SE/4

containing 40.00 acres, more or less; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of recording the Option, Optionor and Optionee have executed, acknowledged and delivered this Memorandum for recording purposes.

The rights and obligations of Optionor and Optionee and their respective successors and assigns are subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Option, reference to which should be made for a complete statement of such rights and obligations.

The term of the Option shall be for a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days commencing on the effective date hereof.

Should there be any discrepancy between this Memorandum and the Option, the Option shall control.

A copy of the Option may be found at the hereinabove mentioned addresses of Optionor and Optionee.

All the terms, conditions and covenants of this Memorandum and the unrecorded controlling Option shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns, respectively, of each of the parties hereto.

Ent 804082 Bk 714 Pg 543
Date: 06-JAN-2010 1:49PM
Fee: \$14.00 Cash
Filed By: KR
VIKKI BARNETT, Recorder
CARBON COUNTY CORPORATION
For: CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - UTAH

STATE OF Prinsylvina)				
COUNTY OF Greene				
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of 12009, by James J. Bryja, the President, of Plateau Mining Corporation, a Delaware corporation.				
	Maren ra. Zaloran			
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	Notary Public D			
Notarial Seal Karen M. Zakom, Notary Public Franklin Twp., Greene County My Commission Expires March 22, 2011	Usyneslave At 15370			
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries	Address			
	My Commission expires: March 32, 3011			
CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - UTAH				
STATE OF ILLAS	•			
Tolan)				
COUNTY OF COUNTY	_) , , , ,			
The foregoing instrument was acknowle	dged before me this 17th day of 10llaber			
Company a Delaware corporation	as Attorney-in Fact of ConocoPhillips			
Company, a Delaware corporation. RA STANDARD OF TEXTS OF TEXTS	Sandra Stevens			
NA DELOS	Notary Public			
S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	Logi Paubreok			
OF TE	Odessa, 1x 19767			
15-20 Thinming	Address			
	My Commission expires: 01-15-2012			

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Optionor and Optionee have executed this Memorandum in duplicate effective as of the date first above written.

OPTIONOR:

PLATEAU MINING CORPORATION

Name: James J. Bryja

Title: President

OPTIONEE:

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY

Name

Title:

Exhibit 880.100b

EXHIBIT 880.100b

CALCULATION OF REVISED BOND AMOUNT IN SUPPORT OF LAND SALE TO CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY

Disturbed acreage included in June 2008 Phase II bond release:

Reduction in disturbed acreage after ConocoPhillips land purchase:

Remaining land not subject to COP purchase/Phase III bond release:

Percentage of Phase II land remaining after COP land purchase:

95.3 acres
87.3 acres
91.6%

Bond amount following June 2008 Phase II bond release: \$734,000

Proposed future bond amount (\$734,000 x 0.916), rounded: \$672,000